

## Project Update: December 2017

### Achievements so far:

- Implement a 4-day teacher training on keeping a sustainable environment and biodiversity conservation – **Fully achieved**

The teacher training was developed and delivered in collaboration with a team of different organisations including Project Anoulak, Creative Literacy Laos, Stone Lion Puppet Theatre, Project Central, GIZ's Promotion of Climate-related Environmental Education (ProCEED), National University of Laos Social and Environmental Education and Development (NUoL SEED), Nam Theun Power Company (NTPC) and Happy Nakai, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (WMPA).

- Produce a teacher training booklet in English and Lao language – **Not achieved**

We were not able to complete the booklet this year, but its production is ongoing and will be completed and disseminated next year.

- Create and disseminate educational resources to remote schools – **Partially achieved**

Rufford funding contributed to the launch of our book 'Wonders of the Annamites' in Laos and Vietnam and to the creation of a new book 'The Spirit of the Saola', which has not yet been printed.

The printing and dissemination of all children's books to schools in Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area (NNT NPA) was delayed this year due to the set-up of a new administrative protected area management body. The community outreach component of the Protected Area Management Plan is under progress and we are actively involved in its development with project partners. Therefore, next year we plan to print out and conduct activities linked to the distribution of children's books to all remote schools in and surrounding NNT NPA

- Production of awareness raising products as prizes and incentives – **Fully achieved**

Products such as t-shirts and bags were manufactured and distributed during the teacher training workshop and used as prizes and incentives.

### Unforeseen difficulties to date:

There were no particular difficulties encountered during the project so far, except a delay in some activities:

- Produce a teacher training booklet in English and Lao language (postponed to next year).
- Create and disseminate educational resources to remote schools (partially achieved and planned to be completed next year).

These delays were due to the fact that the current administrative organisation of the protected area is in reform. We are actively involved in the new administrative arrangement and will work in collaboration with partners to develop the new community outreach

strategy. This strategy will include these activities that were postponed and/or partially completed this year.

### Outcomes to date:

1. A 4-day workshop from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 was held in Nakai with 91 teachers and four district education staff participating from each of the 24 schools in NNT NPA, 21 schools of resettled villages outside the protected area and from three schools from Boulapha District. The training curriculum and activities were developed and delivered in collaboration with a team of different organisations including Project Anoulak, Creative Literacy Laos, Stone Lion Puppet Theatre, Project Central, GIZ's Promotion of Climate-related Environmental Education (ProCEED), National University of Laos Social and Environmental Education and Development (NUoL SEED), Nam Theun Power Company (NTPC) and Happy Nakai, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (WMPA)

The workshop included: => Funds from RUFFORD were used to cover cost of transport, training materials including t-shirts and prizes

- Lectures and hands-on activities and games on the following themes:
  - Sustainable school.
  - Clean water and the environment.
  - Biodiversity.
  - Teaching and curriculum.
- Group discussions around different themes. Support was given from the Nakai District Education Office for teachers to be creative and integrate activities and techniques learnt into their regular curricula.
- A celebration festival was held in the centre of the village for all members of the community and local schools to attend. During the festival, all workshop-participating teachers formed six groups to lead their own art activities around a nature/environmental protection theme.
- A puppet show created specifically for this workshop featuring key species from the region was premiered during the workshop and presented to the community during the festival
- Participants each received an animal t-shirt. Participants were given prizes (Project Anoulak bags, books) as incentives during games. Each participant was given a Certificate of Completion on the last day. Stationery and other material used during the workshop was left behind to deliver to schools.

2. Two book launches in Laos and in Vietnam for book *Wonders of The Annamites*:

- On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017, we organised a book launch in collaboration with France Volontaires and the French Institute in Vientiane for which I gave a public conference, followed by sale of the book => Funds from RUFFORD were used to cover some costs of the event.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017, Nha Nam Publishing organised and invited us as well as Eric Losh to participate in the launch of the book, which included a press conference and art activities with children => Funds from RUFFORD were used to support travel costs of book illustrator and translator of the book *Spirit of the Saola*.

3. A new illustrated fiction story book on the Saola finalised and translated in Lao and Vietnamese => Funds from RUFFORD were used to cover cost of illustration and translation.

- In 2017, we collaborated with Franco-Vietnamese artist Hoang Van Dao and writer Melody Kemp for an illustrated fiction story about the saola, aimed at young adults

- The first draft was finalised and the text is now translated to Lao and Vietnamese.
- We aim to launch the book in three editions: English, Lao and Vietnamese.

### Community involvement to date:

The teacher training workshop that was carried out in February 2017 had a great and impressive turn out of participation of teachers, district staff and youth community from two district of Khammouan Province (see detailed participation in Table 1 below).

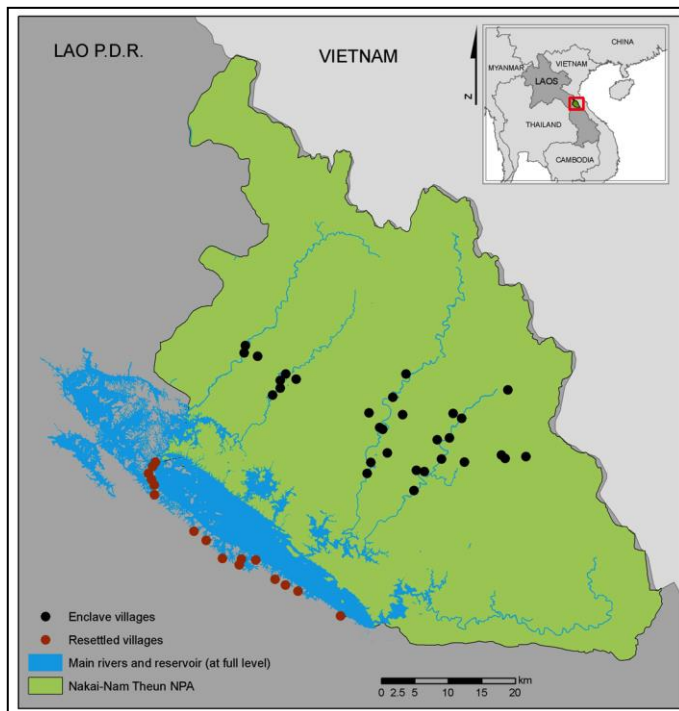
We believe that learning by playing and creating can have significant impacts on the learner, especially when teaching complex and important concepts such as environment and biodiversity issues.

With this project we aimed to train teachers and educators to teach children about environmental sustainability practices and biodiversity conservation through art, play, literacy and creativity and then apply these techniques in their classrooms from primary schools to high school students. Techniques and lessons taught aim to increase environmental awareness and stewardship, encourage critical thinking, and develop responsible citizens starting with the youngest in society by actively involving them in the design and implementation of environmental art and Green School activities.

The workshop was designed to positively impact local communities, wildlife and ecosystems, build passion and compassion for wildlife and support the development of a group of young educators who are enthusiastic about creating a literacy-rich environment, engaging the next generation in local wildlife conservation and growing biophilia.

**Table 1:** Summary description of trainees' attendance to the workshop

Position	Area	Number	Remark
Education district staff	Nakai District	4	
School teachers from 16 resettlement villages	Nakai District (resettled villages)	21	Including two Oudomsouk primary schools, lower-upper secondary school. These villages were resettled in 2007 after the construction of the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Dam
School teachers from 24 enclave villages	Three village clusters upstream of Nam Theun (enclave villages of the Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area)	48	Including teachers from 3 secondary schools and 21 primary schools
School teachers from Boualapha District	Boualapha District	6	Invited by <i>Proceed</i>
Happy Nakai volunteers (youth from resettled villages)	Nakai District (resettled villages)	16	<i>Happy Nakai</i> is a community development project from NTPC to empower the youth of Nakai District by providing vocational training and encourage volunteering to serve the whole community
	<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	Not including trainers, project coordinators and facilitators/translators



**Figure 1:** Location of villages that were involved in this project (additional villages from Boulapha District also were involved in the project)

### **The next few months (an extension):**

The project will continue and be completed over 2018. Anticipated completion date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

In 2018, we plan to use the remaining funds for the following activities:

1. Produce, print and disseminate a teacher training booklet in English and Lao language.
2. Finalise the three editions of 'Spirit of the Saola' (i.e. English, Lao and Vietnamese) and organise a book launch in Laos and Vietnam in a format of wildlife art exhibit/art workshop.
3. Reprint children's books and disseminate (linked to activities) to schools in and surrounding Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area.

### **Sharing information:**

- Project reports: we produced a project report after completion of the teacher training, which was wildlife shared to all project partners and supporters.
- We share project stories on social media, on our Facebook page.
- We produce videos that we share with project partners.
- Children's books which we produce and publish are widely distributed and all have a mention about our project.
- Our book launches include public talks and press conferences.





